

MULTI-NATIONAL DIVISION – BAGHDAD

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM 07-09



Message from
MND-B CG
Pg. 2



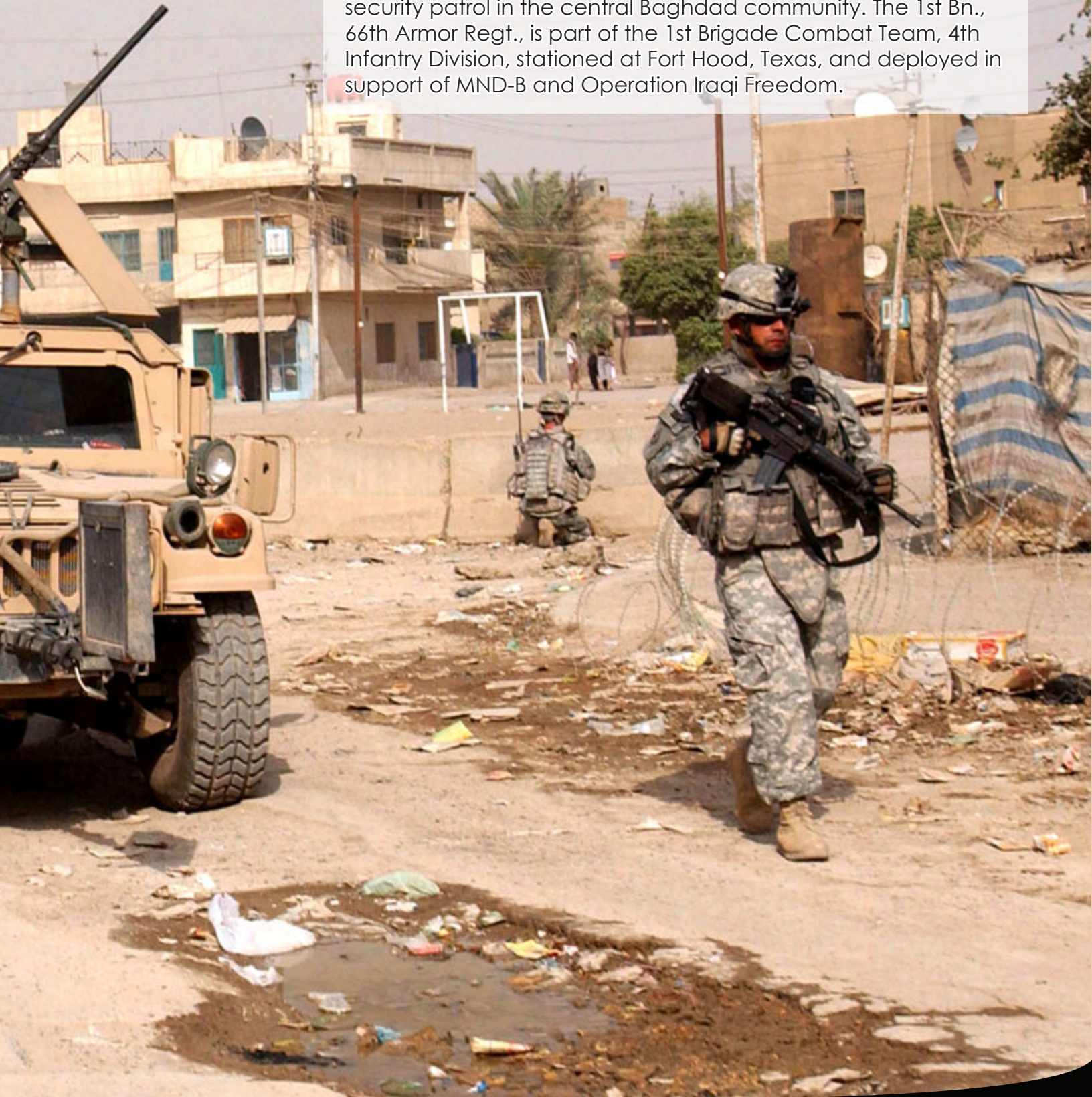
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BAGHDAD – Soldiers of Company C “Crazy Horse,” 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, attached to the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, in support of Multi-National Division – Baghdad, return to their Combat Outpost in Baghdad al-Jidida (New Baghdad) May 2 after completing a dismounted security patrol in the central Baghdad community. The 1st Bn., 66th Armor Regt., is part of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, and deployed in support of MND-B and Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Illustrious division remains

Maj. Gen. Jeffery Hammond

Commanding General, 4th Inf. Div. and MND-B

The 4th Infantry Division became Multi-National Division – Baghdad for a unique 15-month tour in Iraq.

We came here to create an illustrious division Family. Our Family includes not only Soldiers from Fort Hood and Fort Carson, it includes Soldiers from Fort Campbell, Fort Polk, Fort Riley, Fort Stewart, Schofield Barracks, Germany and numerous National Guard and Reserve locations across the United States. We came together to do our job.

Our list of Soldiers are the “quite behind the scenes” type of guys and gals. We mastered the “down-to-Earth” basics. We rolled up our sleeves, knowing what we had to do and got the job done. We protected the Iraqi people.

We did it with our feet on the ground and the division motto in our heart:
Mission – Soldier – Family – Team.

It was the little things that made a big difference. With humility in our Soldiers, sergeants led from the front. Sergeants across the division led the life of the first sentence of the NCO Creed: “No one is more professional than I.” Their stamina and attitude allowed the officers to think with clear heads to plan missions and to lead from the front.

Years from now when we are with our Families and friends, we will look back on this and there will be a moment in time for everyone who participated in this magnificent campaign – when everyone around you is talking, we will be silent. We will not have anything to say. Our minds will drift back to time spent in Baghdad with our other Family – shoulder to shoulder, back to back.

When we are ready to speak, everyone will go silent. Everyone in our company will wait patiently to hear our story. They all want to know what it was really like.

Our story will be one of Soldier courage: dynamic leadership on the ground with sergeants plowing ahead in tough conditions.

Think about it – the story of the Sadr City fight. We can tell the story of how we provided security and water to the people of New Baghdad. We can tell the story of how we brought a sustainable security to Mansour, Hurryaiah and Shula.

We can tell the story of how we finally and forever secured West Rashid so it could never ever again be a threat to the people. We can tell the story of up north, in places like Tarmiyah, of how we destroyed an enemy that bound and ruined lives.

We can tell the story of our incredible military police trainers and the unbelievable work by the Baghdad Provincial Reconstruction Team. The stories we tell can go on and on.

As we conclude this mission, it is quite apparent to me the success we’ve achieved – protecting the people of Iraq and achieving sustainable security – is predominately with our Families.

Every Family trusted the leadership in MND-B with their Soldier. They lent their Soldier to us to care, nurture, fight and win. As the division was forward deployed, Families fought the critical rear battle. The battle is often forgotten and the most vulnerable.

To the end of my life, I will always recall the Families of our Soldiers throughout this deployment as being the most precious part of the team.



as 'Steadfast & Loyal'



MND-B Soldiers are men, women of character, moral courage

Command Sgt. Maj. John Gioia

4th Inf. Div. and MND-B

The commanding general, Maj. Gen. Hammond, often talks about our nation's credentials – America's sons and daughters – our Soldiers. Think about that for a minute. That's an incredibly powerful statement – America's credentials – and that is the Soldiers who make up this great formation.

You see it every day, whether it's conducting a combat patrol down Route Irish or bettering the lives of those in Sadr City. You see how Soldiers are treating the Iraqi people – with dignity and respect. You see how Soldiers treat their fellow Soldiers, their battle buddies.

When I talk about men and women who possess moral courage and character, I am speaking about disciplined Soldiers, which I believe is the cornerstone to success in any organization. Having moral courage and character does not result in awards or recognition, but one always earns pride and self-respect through uncompromising integrity.

Disciplined Soldiers are men and women who have the morale courage to do the right thing. They possess the incredible character to make the difficult decisions when no one else is looking. The courage displayed by Ivy Division Soldiers not only involves facing physical challenges that could cause them harm, it is confronting those mental challenges that could harm them as well – and thus the Army's – reputation. It's making proper decisions based on core beliefs.

Each and every day on the battlefield, I have witnessed professional Soldiers who use sound judgment, are self-disciplined and exhibit the highest ethical standards. Soldiers and leaders make the proper moral choices, often choosing "the hard right over the easy wrong."

Character has always defined the individual. The American Soldier understands their left and right limit in which they operate: how they treat others; how they want to be treated; what they believe in; and lastly, what their moral obligations are. These are the qualities of what makes American Soldiers what they are – professionals. Let me share a few stories that speak of character and moral courage.

First, I am reminded of a story that occurred at one of the memorials the CG and I attended early in our deployment. It was a Fallen Soldier Memorial, where one Soldier was speaking on behalf of the fallen: a dear close friend of his. He said, back home, he and his buddy were in a bar, drinking a beer, watching the news. His friend turned to him and said: "I'm thinking about signing back up. They need us; our nation needs us now more than ever."

He then went on to ask his buddy if he would join with him. His buddies' response was "I gave Uncle Sam 20 years active duty, I have no problem giving my best friend one year." At the memorial, the Soldier speaking said: "I will finish this tour in honor of my friend, who made the ultimate sacrifice. I'll do it for him and those

like him."

That's Character and Moral Courage. This was two Soldiers who had completed their commitment to the Army – two leaders who had retired from active duty and decided to answer their nation's call. That doesn't come from reading a book or watching a movie; it comes from something you believe in that is larger than you – larger than your life.

Another story happened on Christmas Eve 2007. I received a report that we had a vehicle that was hit by an explosive formed penetrator and that two Soldiers in that vehicle were killed and two were being evacuated to the Combat Surgical Hospital here in Baghdad. I went to the hospital on Christmas Eve and visited the Soldiers involved in the attack. One Specialist had just been brought out of surgery and was in intensive care unit when I showed up. I was allowed to visit with him. He had lost both of his legs in the attack and he was on pain medication. I went to his bed and reached out to hold his hand and reassure him that he was receiving the best state of the art care the Army had to offer. He opened his eyes and realized that I was standing there and said: "Command Sergeant Major, I'm sorry I screwed up your Christmas."

I was humbled by his act of genuine concern. He went on to ask: "How are my buddies? When can I get back to my Squad?" and lastly, not understanding the severity of his injuries, he told me "CSM, I'll be back – I will finish what we have started." This young man was 20 years old. What an incredible American patriot, who placed his buddies and the mission above himself. That's character!

I also remember speaking at a NCO Induction Ceremony recently. In my speech, I prepared some remarks on the significance of our NCO Creed and how NCOs throughout history have lived by the creed. As I was reading my speech, I referred to two separate stories of how a Staff Sergeant and a Sergeant through their actions in Combat during OIF II, had been awarded the Silver Star for their actions and bravery. At the end of the ceremony, to my amazement, both of those Soldiers were in the room. They were humbled to hear me speak about their actions. They stated it wasn't about them but, instead, it was about the men and women to their left and right and who they serve as leaders. They told me they weren't heroes, just Soldiers doing what was right at the right moment in time. That's moral courage and character.

Lastly, during my EML leave I visited all the major medical facilities in the United States before heading back here to finish the deployment. While visiting Walter Reed Army Medical Center, I met with a number of our wounded warriors. There were two Soldiers who stood out on my visit. The first was a triple amputee who was also deaf. He was being pushed in a wheel chair when I just happened to see him in passing. He carried with him a white erase board in his wheel chair, and that's how he communicated with people. I spent the next twenty minutes talking with him, and I have never met some-

one so full of spirit and such an incredible positive outlook on life. His main concern was for me to tell him how his buddies were doing and to pass along his message of thanks and respect for all that we are doing over here. I will never forget this Soldier and how he impacted me personally.

The second Soldier was a Staff Sergeant who lost both his limbs. I met him in a courtyard with a group of other wounded warriors. After my visit was over, he asked if he could meet privately with me. We stayed there in the courtyard as everyone departed. He began to express the need for professional development to continue for the wounded warriors as they are in the healing process. He said, "It's not about me, as I will be medically retired, it's about those that will return to the force in the future once they are healed." His genuine concern for his fellow Soldiers was unbelievably powerful, yet more examples of men and women who possess incredible moral courage and character.

I have countless stories I can share and they are all from great Americans who make up our formation. When you look at each individual Soldier that make up our formation, and you look at how they have lived their past 15 months in combat, it's no wonder why we are so successful here in Iraq. Success has been accomplished solely due to the orders or plans, but due in large part to the Soldiers and their leaders, who possess the moral courage and character to take on the next level.

In closing, General George S. Patton said, "Moral courage is the most valuable characteristic in men. It is the most absent characteristic in men who have served with what I believe is the best generation. I am both honored and proud of such a proud profession made of Ironhorse!

Steadfast and Loyal!



Patton once said; "I have been fortunate to be the next greatest and humbled to be part of America's credentials."

A close-up, over-the-shoulder view of a soldier in camouflage gear aiming a rifle. The soldier's helmet and part of their face are visible on the left. The rifle is in the foreground, pointing towards the right. In the background, there is a yellow military vehicle and a city street with buildings and debris, suggesting a conflict zone.

MIS

A Soldier from 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Division, Germany and attached to the 1st Infantry Division, pulls security duty in the Sadr City district of Baghdad. The mission is to provide security for the safe neighborhood and protect the lives of U.S. military personnel and residents from terrorists and insurgents. The mission also includes support economic growth and development and to provide humanitarian aid to the counterparts from the 11th Airborne Division in south Sadr City in late March. The mission area is a firing point for rockets and mortar fire.

MISSION



“Mission. The very word defines for the Soldier his purpose. It gives clarity and scope on what’s expected of him, what he must accomplish, how he defines success. Mission puts a fine point on what could be a daunting list of almost infinite tasks and orients him on those things most important. For us, MND-B, Mission is all about protecting the population and enabling a return of Iraq to proper civil control. Soldiers have accomplished that Mission like none before them. Our enemies are defeated or disrupted, no longer able to muster the level of violence and terror that threatens the viability of the Iraqi government. People are returning to a more stable life – raising and educating their children, regaining jobs, and enjoying the freedoms of a democratic society. Our Mission partners – the Iraqi Security Forces and Police – are daily gaining proficiency and competence to ensure that stability and security for their citizens under strong and fair civilian governance. ”

– Brig. Gen. William Grimsley
Charleston, S.C.
Deputy Commanding General
4th Inf. Div. and MND-B

, 6th Infantry Regiment, based out of
3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infan-
during a barrier emplacement opera-
of Baghdad May 12. The mission is part
plan to safeguard southern Sadr City
d criminals, restore essential services
rowth. MND-B Soldiers and their Iraqi
Iraqi Army Division initially went into
ch to disrupt the enemy's use of the
ockets and mortars throughout Bagh-



3rd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

BAGHDAD – In the annals of America's wars there are great battles that stand out as a turning point. Places like Lexington, Gettysburg, Marne, Normandy and the Chosin Reservoir were merely dots on a map before they gained a place in history as testaments to American military might against determined foes.

In Iraq, the Battle for Sadr City may be recorded by history as the final gate to irreversible momentum that leads to a secure and democratic Iraq.

"A major turning point in the Iraq war was taking Sadr City," said Col. John Hort, a Fayetteville, N.C., native, and commander, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

Sadr City was a battle in the truest form. After a protracted period of intermittent attacks by militant Shia extremists against Multi-National Division – Baghdad and its partners in the Iraqi Army and the Government of Iraq, Sadr City erupted March 25 in a stream of rocket fire aimed at the International Zone and the GoI.

Special Groups Criminals, in violation of the Muqtada al Sadr-imposed cease fire, took advantage of violence in Basra to launch attacks against the GoI, the ISF and innocent Iraqi civilians.

With assistance from additional maneuver companies and adjacent MND-B brigades, the Striker Brigade moved quickly to shore up weakened or abandoned Iraqi Army checkpoints overwhelmed by well equipped and well organized Special Groups fighters. Alongside their reinforced IA partners, the brigade sealed off Sadr City to prevent the violence from spreading to the peaceful and progressive areas of the Adhamiyah district of Baghdad.

"We had to protect our success. We couldn't allow Special Groups to dismantle what our Soldiers and the Iraqi

Army worked so hard to build," said Maj. John Gossart, executive officer for the 3rd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

In the early days of the battle, tales of heroism were being written as MND-B Soldiers fought side by side with IA to fight back the Special Groups criminal assault.

The Striker Brigade effectively isolated the violence in what amounted to a giant cordon of Sadr City. Next, the MND-B Soldiers had to gain control of the Thawra 1 and Thawra 2 neighborhoods in south Sadr City to deny the SG criminals an ability to strike out at the IZ with as many as 12 rocket attacks per day.

The Striker Brigade launched an offensive not seen since Operation Iraqi Freedom I. M1 tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles from 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment, and the 8-wheeled Stryker vehicles from 1st Squadron, 2 Stryker Cavalry Regiment, attached to 3rd BCT, rolled in to secure the once permissible neighborhoods and eliminate prima-

ry points of origin for the SG weapon of choice, the 107mm rocket.

Intense fighting ensued in the densely populated area, where SG criminal held up in homes and businesses abandoned by Iraqis fleeing the fighting. Partnered with the IA and relying heavily on aerial reconnaissance platforms and attached air weapons teams, 3rd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. was able to regain those neighborhoods and shut down the rocket launch sites.

"It was a street to street fight to clear and hold the neighborhoods," said Gossart.

Gossart said the SG criminals were determined to remain in control of their rocket launch sites and the Jamilla Market, the largest market in northern Baghdad and a principal source of income for the criminal elements, who extorted from businesses and civilians to fund their campaign of violence.

To isolate these Iranian-backed criminals, Hort made the decision to employ a successful tactic used by his brigade in Adhamiyah and elsewhere in Baghdad – the Striker Brigade would build a wall.

Day and night, Soldiers of the Striker Brigade fought their way up and down the 3-mile stretch of the Jamilla/Al Quds road that separates Thawra 1 and Thawra 2 in the south from the rest of Sadr City. Through a hail of sniper fire, RPG attacks and minefields of explosively-formed penetrators, 3rd BCT erected barrier after barrier of concrete now known as the Gold Wall.

Fresh Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armor Division, joined the fight just in time in May, taking responsibility for Thawra 2 and their section of the Gold Wall.

Hort said the 4-week operation to build the wall tasked resources across the brigade and MND-B, to include the Soldiers of the 35th Engineer Brigade.

(Continued on next page)



926th Eng. Bde.

BAGHDAD – Just as the 926th Engineer Brigade, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, arrived in theater, the Battle for Sadr City wound down successfully.

The Battle for Sadr City transitioned into the reconstruction of Sadr City. As large-scale lethal action ceased, large-scale assistance and reconstruction efforts began. Maj. Gen. Jeffery Hammond, the commanding general of the 4th Inf. Div. and MND-B, mandated following improved security conditions the division, in conjunction with the Government of Iraq, would focus on improving the quality of life of the residents of Sadr City. This directive included the basics of debris clearance and rubbish removal, humanitarian aid and medical assistance, installation of street lighting, repair of waste water collection systems and the provision of electric power to residents.

The effort included the substantial upgrade of roads, medical clinics and rehabilitation centers, schools, parks and recreational facilities. It included the repair and refurbishment of the People's Market and Baghdad's landmark Jamilla Market.

Reconstruction and assistance efforts were implemented by Task Force Gold in partnership with the 3rd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. Task Force Gold is subordinate command

of the 926th Engineer Brigade, combining joint engineer and civil affairs assets May 25. This unique engineering focus offered enhanced project management capability and technical expertise beyond the resources typically found at the Civil Military Operations Center, which was absorbed within Task Force Gold.

Within a remarkably short ramp up, the pace and intensity of the Sadr City reconstruction took off at an unprecedented pace. Immediate program objectives included power generation, solar street lighting, repairs of roads and sidewalks, trash and removal of 20-foot high mountains of debris from streets, restoration of community parks and, in some cases, removal of raw sewage. This was the case on a street (located in the heart of the People's Market of Jamilla) where liquid waste was as deep as three feet in some areas.

Traffic and businesses were restored and reopened, and additional jobs were created as a result.

The 926th Engineer Brigade, led by Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Talley, transformed the quality of life in OE Gold. In addition to its traditional role focusing on combat construction effects, the 926th targeted its resources on the economic assistance and reconstruction of Sadr City. In coordination with 3rd BCT, Col. Jared Olsen, Task Force Gold com-

mander, executed 184 projects, including the renovation of 38 primary and secondary schools, six public health clinics and a rehabilitation center, refurbished sewer collection systems, sewage lift stations and drinking water distribution systems; more than 24 micro-generators brought electricity to more than 3,000 Families; more than 175 solar lights bring safety and security to community streets; parks and recreation areas, including the Jamilla Youth Complex; and a re-vitalized public swimming pool, the only functioning pool in all of Sadr City.

Task Force Gold developed more than 200 projects, hired and supervised local Iraqi contractors and more than 6,500 continuous workers with a value of \$56.3 million.

In ways that could only have been imagined at the beginning of its deployment, the 926th Engineer Brigade built a firm foundation essential to the success of MND-B's counter-insurgency strategy.

Task Force Gold, in partnership with 3rd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., changed the face of Baghdad's Sadr City district. Its capital projects delivered quality of life relief to the people in Baghdad's most congested residential quarter.

In years to come, recalling their service, the Soldiers of the 4th Infantry Division and the 926th Engineer Brigade will know they made a difference for good in Sadr City.

Sadr City reconstruction



FIGHT

(Continued from previous page)

"It was literally a three-mile sprint, and our guys fought the whole way," Gossart said.

Hort credited aerial intelligence, reconnaissance and surveillance platforms and the Soldiers who controlled them from the 3rd Special Troops Battalion, 3rd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., for his view of the battlefield and their ability to walk

air-weapons teams in for the kill. He said engineers provided the expertise and operated the equipment to place the barriers on the ground, and logisticians normally charged with resupplying the brigade fought their way in and out of Sadr City, delivering and stockpiling barriers right on the line, a task usually not associated with the job.

When completed, the Gold

Wall consisted of more than 4,000 concrete barriers, 10 to 12 feet high, and the effect was immediate. The SG-criminals were defeated, and the IA's confidence was restored, leading to an IA operation in the north of the city.

As the executors of this historic battle, the Striker Brigade led an unprecedented fight of more than 600 direct-fire engagements; the Soldiers

expended more than 12,000 25mm rounds and more than 800 120mm tank rounds, to kill or capture more than 1,000 Special Groups criminals.

"Our Soldiers can be proud of what they've done here," Hort said, of the Striker Brigade.

"One day, they'll be able to say to their grandchildren: 'I remember Sadr City.'"



:: GOOD BUSINESS :: Spc. Tyler Luetjen, a cavalry scout from St. Louis, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, uses a Biometric Automated Tool Set to register a local Iraqi business owner for a microgrant Aug. 9 in the Abu T'shir community of the Rashid district in southern Baghdad.

with the 2nd Battalion, 101st Airborne Division.

The Raider combat and service support battalions, the 4th Support Battalion, and 1st Special Troops Battalion, were responsible for all the support requirements assigned to the 1st BCT.

The 1st STB provided route clearance, the communications and intelligence used by the brigade during its deployment. The 4th Supt. Bn. provided steadfast logistical support to the Soldiers on the FOB, to the 15 JSS's and Combat Outposts in the Rashid district.

The hard work and sacrifices of Iraqi Security and Coalition Forces in the Rashid district fostered a measurable improvement in the security and stability of the Government of Iraq, ultimately improving the quality of life for the people of Baghdad. With security and a sense of normalcy returning to the neighborhoods, businesses and communities throughout Baghdad.

The 1st BCT and its embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team coordinated with the local and provincial leaders of the Rashid District Council and the nation's capital to complete community and infrastructure projects valued at millions of dollars. With the support of the Government of Iraq, the ongoing reconstruction efforts have led to several successful humanitarian assistance and community medical engagements and projects for the Iraqi people.

Though many were the successes of the 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., deployed in support of OIF 07-09, their accomplishments were achieved at a price, and the Soldiers, leaders and noncommissioned officers of the Raider Brigade will always remember those men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for America and for Iraq.

Raiders' sacrifice serves Iraq's quality of life mission a success

1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

"The 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, from Fort Hood, Texas, is hereby attached to Multi-National Division – Baghdad, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom effective April 13, 2008, signed Maj. Gen. Jeffery Hammond, MND-B, 4th Inf. Div., Commanding."

The 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., also known as the "Raider" Brigade, began its deployment in early March 2008, nearly five years since the beginning of OIF, when Coalition Forces first began ongoing operations to liberate the Iraqi people from a ruthless tyrant, and the Raiders of the 1st Brigade captured the dictator, Saddam Hussein, in the city of Tikrit.

Led by Col. Ted Martin and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bobb, the Raider BCT assumed responsibility of the Rashid district, an area in southern Baghdad the size of Orlando, Fla.

Two of the 1st BCT's organic combat units supported MND-B operations in central and eastern Baghdad: the 1st Bat-

talion, 66th Armor Regiment, was attached to the 4th BCT, 10th Mtn. Div., operating from FOB Rustamiyah in Baghdad al-Jadida; while the 2nd Battalion, 42nd Artillery Regiment, operated from FOB Prosperity,



:: STACK :: Staff Sgt. Nathan Camp, a squad leader with the 3rd Platoon, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, instructs a team of Iraqi National Policemen preparing to enter a room during house clearance training Aug. 14 in the Jaza'ir community of southern Baghdad.

BAGHDAD – On the unit's third deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Soldiers of the Striker Brigade made great strides in a critical slice of Baghdad setting the conditions for economic growth and essential services upgrades in the Iraqi capital's most volatile district and keeping the peace in its most progressive.



:: BUILDING TRUST :: Staff Sgt. Frank Lugo, member of the Task Force Regular, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, Civil Affairs Team, gives a Blow-Pop to an Iraqi girl while patrolling the Jamilla Market area in the Sadr City district of Baghdad June 13.

Striker's triumph, struggle mends Iraqi hardship

3rd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

The 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, assumed responsibility of its environment in the Adhamiyah and Sadr City districts of Baghdad in mid-March 2008. Immediately, the conditions changed, forcing the Soldiers of the Striker Brigade to test their mettle in some of the most intense fighting since the start of OIF I.

"In the past five days, we've had some very heroic work out there," said Col. John Hort, a native of Fayetteville, N.C., and commander of the 3rd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., about the Striker Soldiers soon after militia groups began launching 107mm rockets in late March 2008.

Hort told reporters that the attacks were the result of Special Groups criminals acting unilaterally and that his Soldiers were doing everything possible not to violate terms of the Sadr cease fire.

Within hours of the first attacks, the Strik-

er Brigade began maneuvering its forces to isolate the violence in what amounted to a giant cordon of Sadr City. With assistance from additional maneuver companies and adjacent brigades as well as reinforcements from partnered Iraqi Army Brigades, 3rd BCT was able to slam the gates on Sadr City, protecting the progressive and burgeoning market area of Adhamiyah where Sons of Iraq had helped to all but eliminate the threat from al-Qaeda in Iraq.

"We had to protect our success. We couldn't allow Special Groups to dismantle what we had worked so hard to build" said Maj. John Gossart, executive officer for the 3rd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

With Sadr City essentially surrounded, the next task was to put a halt to rocket attacks originating from Sadr City pounding the Green Zone with as many as 12 attacks per day.

The Striker Brigade launched an offensive to secure the once permissible southern neighborhoods of Sadr City, Thawra 1

and Thawra 2, and eliminate primary points of origin for the Special Groups weapon of choice. Partnered with the IA, and relying heavily on aerial reconnaissance platforms and attached air weapons teams, 3rd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., was able to regain those neighborhoods and shut down the rocket launch sites.

"Within two weeks of the start of fighting, we had successfully reduced the attacks from about 12 a day to less than one per day," Gossart said.

Critical to that offensive was the erection of the three-mile long Gold Wall along the Jamilla/Al Quds road that separates the neighborhoods of Thawra 1 and Thawra 2 from the rest of Sadr City.

When complete, the Gold Wall consisted of more than 4,000 concrete barriers, 10- to 12-feet high. It effectively shut down Special Groups access to their resources and funding they were extorting out of the hard working business owners from the Jamilla Market, the largest market in northeast Baghdad, and other market areas of Thawra 1 and 2.

Isolated from their resources and no longer supported by the local population, the Special Groups leadership fled leaving the Striker Brigade free to begin the healing process in the hardest hit areas, and the IA to move north to secure the rest of Sadr City now no longer controlled by Special Groups.

At the end of the Sadr City campaign, and nine months into the Striker Brigade's deployment, the Striker Soldiers have been in more than 600 direct-fire engagements, expended more than 12,000 25mm rounds and more than 800 120mm tank rounds, to kill or capture more than 1,000 Special Groups criminals.

"The hard work from our Soldiers has resulted in Sadr City joining Adhamiyah as the model for Baghdad and the rest of Iraq to follow," Hort said.

Called to Duty

Strike Brigade brings change to northwest Baghdad

2nd BCT, 101st Abn. Div.

When the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), first arrived in northwest Baghdad in November 2007, it had one thing in mind – accomplish the mission.

The Soldiers of the Strike Brigade immediately partnered with the Iraqi Security Forces and civil leaders to secure the population within northwest Baghdad to neutralize and defeat insurgent and criminal groups.

With security set, they would be able to increase the Government of Iraq's capacity to provide governance and services, improve the region's economic competitive advantage and facilitate reconciliation.

Side-by-side with the Iraqi Security Forces and Sons of Iraq, they patrolled the streets of northwest Baghdad – interacting with the local citizens and ensuring the safety and

security of these citizens – and pushed out to the various joint security stations in the Mansour, Kadhamiyah and Karkh District's of Baghdad.

Over the course of their deployment, businesses would blossom, the economy would surge and the Iraqi Security Forces would continue to grow as a reliable force focused on securing the various communities throughout northwest Baghdad.

However, before the economy or the government could go forward in a positive direction, security needed to be maintained.

:: HOME SECURITY :: Sgt. Mark Speakman, a native of Sacramento, Calif., and Spc. Joshua Ingram, a native of Portales, N.M., secure the second floor of a home in the Ghazaliyah Sept. 5.

Everything would start from within the joint security stations where they would be able to push out quickly into their respective neighborhoods.

JSSs are a major component of counter-insurgency operations, said Maj. Lamar Adams, a native of Santa Barbara, Calif., with the 2nd BCT, 101st Abn. Div., Multi-National Division – Baghdad.

They are living among the Iraqi people where they can develop better relationships and earn a level of trust with the Iraqis within the community. "That level of trust leads to more tips, and more human intelligence is gained when you are living there in proximity to them," Adams said.

Determined, the Soldiers of the Strike Brigade did all they could to reach out to local populace to find the whereabouts of these men. When the brigade first took over the area, "we were in a very much survival state economy and a very post-crisis government. The economy activity was beating along but it was still heavily depressed in a lot of situations," said Maj. Tim Collier, the brigade's civil affairs officer.

"You can see on the streets in the cities; there is less garbage; there is less debris; it's cleaned up a lot," Collier said. The Iraqi government is doing a lot to keep their streets clean.

"The city, more days, looks busier and looks more normal," Collier said.

There is still much work the Strike Brigade must accomplish; but in a year's time, they have accomplished a lot.



:: VIGILANT WARRIOR :: 1st Lt. Adrian Monzingo, platoon leader and native of Sour Lake, Texas, walks through a pool hall during a dismounted patrol through northwest Baghdad November 20, 2007.

Warriors accomplish a diverse mission



:: CARE TAKER :: First Lt. Amy Hawkins, a native of Fort Wayne, Ind., checks a boy's breathing during a medical operation April 29 at the Al Arwa Abn Al Ward School in Jaffer village, which is in the Taji Qada, northwest of Baghdad.

Warrior Soldiers develop security and economic reform with the aid of Coalition partners

2nd SBCT, 25th Inf. Div.

The 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team "Warrior," 25th Infantry Division, assumed northwest Baghdad area of operations from 1st Brigade "Iron Horse," 1st Cavalry Division, Jan. 15, 2008.

Brigade elements arrived in theater mid-November to begin the flow of more than 4,000 Soldiers and 400 Stryker combat vehicles from Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, to Camp Taji, Iraq.

Operation Warrior Tsunami, the brigade's mission, provides security for the people of Iraq and facilitates a safe, secure and stable environment. In turn, that provides an Iraq for the Iraqis by the Iraqis.

The brigade's initial battle space occupied 600 square miles, from the Tigris River to the east and south to the gates of Baghdad, to Multi-National Division – West's border and the northern boundary with MND-North. The area included Forwarding Operating Base Camp Taji, with the towns of Tarmiyah, Sa'ab al Bour and Taji as the major population centers.

The Warrior Brigade partners with Macedonian Army Rangers and an Estonian Army detachment and fully integrates Coalition partners in operations. The Sons

of Iraq are also an integral part of the team, with more than 18,000 in the Warrior operational environment. Iraqi Security Forces (Iraqi Army, Police and National Police) are the most strategic team members, providing security for the Iraqi people.



◀ Sgt. 1st Class Craig McNeal, platoon sergeant for 4th Platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment "Gimlets," 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, attached to 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, pounds fists with an Iraqi boy while on patrol in Sadr City, a district of Baghdad, April 1.

▶ Capt. Darrell Tran, native of Bridgeport, Conn., and commander for Company B, 52nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team "Warrior," 25th Infantry Division, greets local sheiks with a friendly handshake before the opening of the Hammayat Iraqi Police Station Sept. 2.





Example of Freedom

:: POWER WALK :: Staff Sgt. Randy Widefoot (left), a Pinon, Ariz., native, and Spc. Samuel Fowler, a Knightdale, N.C., native, conduct a dismounted patrol near the Al Alawaya power station March 19.

Patriot Brigade goes above, beyond to meet mission

4th BCT, 10th Mtn. Div.

The 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light), went above and beyond the call of duty in accomplishing the Multi-National Division – Baghdad mission during Operation Iraqi Freedom 07-09.

In partnership with Iraqi Security Forces and provincial government officials, the Patriot Brigade secured the population and neutralized insurgents and extremists to establish sustainable security and stability, setting conditions for transition to tactical overwatch and Iraqi self-reliance.

Headquartered on Forward Operating Base Loyalty, 4th BCT, 10th Mtn. Div. (L), arrived in Baghdad in full force in early December 2007. The Patriots took responsibility for Multi-National Division – Baghdad operations in the Rusafa, Karadah and 9 Nissan districts of eastern Baghdad.

The 4th BCT conducted combat operations from two main bases: FOB Loyalty and FOB Rustamiyah, but also lived and worked alongside Iraqi Security Forces on several combat outposts and joint se-

curity stations within the operating environment. This built relationships of mutual trust and understanding and enhanced training of ISF units and leaders, including combat operations, weapons training, Soldier skills and first aid.

Combined missions, training and leadership academies for selected ISF officers and noncommissioned officers would eventually empower the units not only to take the lead in planning and conducting operations but to conduct independent operations without Coalition forces.

As an example of such progress, 10 companies of National Police officers and Iraqi Army soldiers conducted a combined search for militants and weapons in the Beladiyah area June 10. NPs from 1st and 2nd National Police Divisions and soldiers from 9th Iraqi Army division confiscated scores of weapons and detained several suspects. Additionally, Iraqi Police officials performed vehicle inspections and tag verifications to support the operation in Muhalla 740.

“This was the first Iraqi Security Forces-led joint operation in 9 Nissan that was fully planned and executed by the national police,” explained Lt. Col. Chris Des-

saso, a Springfield, Mass., native, who serves as a team chief with 8th Brigade, 2nd Division National Police Transition Team. “Brig. Gen. Ali requested the task organization, and Maj. Gen. Abud approved it. (For us), this is tactical overwatch in action.”

The operation netted 62 AK-47 rifles, six Simonov rifles, four pistols and two artillery rounds rigged to become improvised-explosive devices. NPs detained 23 suspects, one of whom was a militant the Government of Iraq wanted for “crimes against the Iraqi people,” explained Sgt. 1st Class John Kell, a Montgomery, Texas, native.

“It was all Iraqi Security Forces – it was very impressive,” said Kell. “I think if they keep going on this patch, there will be less need for Coalition Forces to back them up.

A multitude of grand openings for new and refurbished facilities occurred in the Patriot OE during OIF 07-09, including many public schools and swimming pools, medical clinics, micro-power generators and the Al-Mutanabi book market.

During OIF 07-09, the 4th BCT, 10th Mtn. Div., succeeded in working with ISF and provincial government partners to secure the populace.

This partnership resulted in an empowered, more self-reliant ISF and a turn toward a return to normalcy for eastern Baghdad citizens.

Ever Vigilant

a quest for IP primacy

18th MP Bde.



:: TRAINING IRAQ :: Sgt. Adam Coleman, a Maryland, Md., native, and military policeman with the 153rd Military Police Company, inspects Iraqi policemen searching vehicles at the Iraqi Criminal Investigation Department Headquarters – Baghdad March 11, 2008.

18th MP Bde.

The 18th Military Police Brigade unfurled its colors for the third time in five years as it returned to the Iraqi theater of operation in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 07-09.

The brigade assumed the Iraqi Police Transition Team mission on Oct. 29, 2007, replacing the 89th Military Police Brigade. The operational scope within Multi-National Division – Baghdad encompassed two military police battalion headquarters with nine military police companies supporting 14 Police districts under the control of six separate brigade combat teams.

Over the next 15 months, the 18th MP Brigade developed an Iraqi Police campaign plan consisting of three distinct lines of operations: Iraqi Police expansion, development and legitimacy.

In support of IP expansion the 18th MP Brigade executed Operation Blue Shield, which called for the expansion of the Baghdad Police force by 12,641 shurta, policemen. This operation quickly became the brigade's main effort throughout the course of the following 10 months. The brigade met and exceeded its objective by

expanding and equipping the Baghdad Police Force by more than 13,000 new IPs, more than one-half that member made up of former Sons of Iraq members.

The brigade transformed an abandoned Iraqi weather station into a functional IP training facility in less than three weeks.



:: COMBAT CHECK :: Sgt. Joshua Holland, a native of Bessemer, N.C., and member of 18th Military Police Brigade, explains the importance of keeping a clean weapon to an Iraqi policeman prior to a joint patrol mission in Khadra, Iraq Jan. 15, 2008.

Additionally, the brigade assumed the responsibility for the management and oversight of the construction and refurbishment of more than 31 expedient and permanent IP stations.

The 18th MP Brigade's next line of operation centered on developing the Iraqi Police into a competent organization integrated into the Iraqi security scheme, capable of enforcing the rule of law. The brigade used a two-pronged attack in support of this LOO, incorporating an extended reach and enhanced PTT concept.

The PTT extended reach pushed out unit PTTs into sector and embedded them at combat outposts and forward operating bases, closing the distance between PTTs and partnered stations and increasing contact time for these newly formed and trained Iraqi Police.

IP legitimacy, the brigade's third line of operation, centered on the realization that no matter how well trained, equipped, or developed the Iraqi Police service could become, all efforts would prove futile in the absence of their acceptance by the people as a legitimate government service.

This third LOO employed an information operations strategy that focused on assisting the Iraqi government to promote its message that the IPs were now trained and ready to serve the population and provide long-term security for the people of Baghdad.

The 'Ever Vigilant' brigade completed its 15 month tour, leaving behind an enabled and trained Iraqi Police force and taking with it battle hardened and confident military police warriors proud of their accomplishments to provide a brighter future for the people of Iraq.